

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 TRSE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 AID-05 COME-00 HA-05
/098 W

-----029026 231447Z /50

R 230751Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0229
INFO RUDKRB AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 4777
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEO ASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW JDS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 4352

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RO HU UR COMECON ECIN EEWT
SUBJECT: COMECON SUMMIT IN BUCHAREST JUNE 27-28: PRELIMINARY
ROUNDUP

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 4272, (B) BUCHAREST 4056, (C) BUCHAREST 4028,
(D) BUCHAREST 3832

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1. SUMMARY. OUR SOUNDINGS SUGGEST THERE MAY BE SOMETHING TO
LE MONDE REPORT SOURCED THROUGH TANJUG TO "ROMANIAN ECONOMIC
CIRCLES" THAT COMECON SUMMIT WILL CONSIDER SOME MODIFICATION
OF UNANIMITY RULE, BUT IT IS HARD TO TELL HOW MUCH. IT
OCCURS TO US THAT MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD BE PERFECT
SOVIET REPLIQUE TO ROMANIANS BSTR SERIOUSNESS ON
BESSARABIA/TRANSYLVANIA ISSUES, WHETHER OR NOT IT WERE

SERIOUSLY MEANT IN COMECON CONTEXT. TAKEN TOGETHER WITH TRIUMPHAL CEAUSESCU TOUR OF MINORITY AREAS JUNE 20-21, IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE SYMBOLIC DENOUEMENT FOR MINI-FLAREUP IN ROMANIAN-HUNGARIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS,

WITH ALL PARTIES MORE OR LESS EQUALLY SATISFIED. END SUMMARY.

2. NOTING THAT OTHER WESTERN PAPERS HAVE NOW PICKED UP JUNE 16 LE MONDE REPORT FROM BELGRADE THAT MOVE IS UNDERWAY TO REPLACE UNANIMITY BY MAJORITY VOTE IN COMECON, FRENCH DCM REPORTED AT QUADRIPARTITE DCM'S LUNCHEON JUNE 22 THAT HE HAD ASKED BOTH FONMIN ANDREI AND DEPFONMIN VASILE GLIGA ABOUT STORY AT ANDREI'S AIRPORT DEPARTURE FOR FRANCE EARLIER IN WEEK. ANDREI HAD REPLIED THAT THERE ARE ALWAYS TWO TENDENCIES FOR AND AGAINST MORE INTEGRATION IN COMECON AND THAT MOVES TOWARD INTEGRATION ARE THEREFORE OLD STORY. IMPLICATION WAS THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT. GLIGA, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, HAD ALSO DOWNPLAYED IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE WHILE ADMITTING ITS EXISTENCE: THERE WAS DISCUSSION IN COMECON OF CHANGES FOR UNANIMITY TO MAJORITY RULE, BUT ONLY AT "EXPERTS' LEVEL."

3. UK HEAD OF CHANCERY REPORTED THAT IN RESPONSE HIS QUERIES, POLISH POLITICAL COUNSELOR SPECIALIZING IN CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD SAID WHAT IS UNDER DISCUSSION IS ALTERATION OF "INTERESTED PARTY" PROCEDURES IN COMECON TO REMOVE VETO CURRENTLY WIELDED BY COUNTRIES WHO DECLARE THEMSELVES INTERESTED IN JOINT PROJECTS BUT ARE UNWILLING TO PARTICIPATE. EXAMPLE HAFOA WAS LAND TRANSPORTATION, WHERE FOUR-COUNTRY PROJECTS COULD NOW BE BLOCKED BY SINGLE NON-PARTICIPATING INTERESTED PARTY EVEN IF OTHER THREE WISHED TO GO AHEAD.

4. POLISH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 22 HE THOUGHT QUESTION OF MAJORITY AS DISTINGUISHED FROM UNANIMOUS VOTING "MIGHT WELL" BE TAKEN UP AT COMECON SUMMIT, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOVIET COMMERCIAL OFFICE SAID THIS WEEK THAT MEETING WOULD SEEK TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC COOPERATION THROUGH INITIATION OF "SECTORAL-COMPLEX PROGRAMS." SOVIET SOURCE ADDED THAT SOVIETS ARE ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF SUCH PROGRAMS FOR ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS, AND THAT IF THEY ARE ADOPTED IN THESE TWO AREAS, THEN ANOTHER IN (UNNAMED) THIRD AREA WOULD BE PROPOSED.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS SOME MOVE MAY

INDEED BE AFOOT TO PROPOSE RULE CHANGES IN CERTAIN AREAS OF
COMECON WORK, BUT THAT AREAS MAY BE QUITE LIMITED AND
TECHNICAL. IT WOULD NOT SEEM AT THIS POINT THAT MAJOR
CHANGE IN BASIC COMECON GROUND RULES -- UNANIMITY PLUS
"INTERESTED PARTY" PROCEDURES FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS --
IS IN OFFING. AT SAME TIME, EVEN THIS MUCH IS
PROBABLY ENOUGH TO SET BELLS RINGING IN GOR, AAD

EXPLAIN HOW "ROMANIAN ECONOMIC CIRCLES" CAME TO LEAK
REPORT TO TANJUG AND THENCE TO LE MODE AND REST OF
WESTERN PRESS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 4352

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

6. IT OCCURS TO US THAT RECENT MINI-FLAREUP IN
ROMANIAN-HUNGARIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS OVER TERRITORIAL/
MINORITY

ISSUES (REF D) MAY HAVE HEIGHTENED ROMANIAN SENSITIVITIES. QUESTION POSED IN REF C WAS WHETHER SOVIETS WOULD REACT TO STINGING ROMANIAN STATEMENT ON BESSARABIA BY PARTY HISTORY INSTITUTE DIRECTOR POPESCU-PUTURI, DELIVERED AFTER WHAT APPEARED TO BE HUNGARIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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DECISION TO SHELVE AGITATION ORIGINATING IN HUNGARY ON TRANSYLVANIAN MINORITY. AT US-SOVIET JUNE 6 BILATERAL LUNCHEON REPORTED REF C, AMBASSADOR DROZDENKO WAS STILL INDIGNANT ABOUT BESSARABIA ARTICLE. HE HAD READ NOT

ONLY THIS ARTICLE, BUT ALL "THAT MAN'S" ARTICLES, AND COULD SAY THEY WERE NOT CORRECT, NOT OBJECTIVE, NOT HELPFUL. SOVIET EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER FOR SUMMIT DEL TOLD POL COUNSELOR JUNE 22 THAT BILATERAL POLITICAL TALKS ARE FORESEEN. IF SOVIETS JUDGE THAT OVERT MOVE IN POLITICAL OR BILATERAL ECONOMIC FIELD WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME, COMECON MEETING WHERE KOSZUIN IS JOINED BY OTHER CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT IN REMINDING ROMANIANS OF WHERE THEY STAND WOULD BE PERFECT OCCASION FOR GLANCING BLOW EVEN IF NOT MEANT

SERIOUSLY AND NOT INTENDED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN COMECON CONTEXT. IN THIS CONTEXT, HOWEVER, THERE MAY EVEN BE ENOUGH INTEREST ON PART OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES IN ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM "SECTORAL-COMPLEX PROGRAMS" TO OVERCOME POSTURED BACKSTAIRS RESISTANCE BY

OTHER SMALL COUNTRIES IN SMALL STEPS TOWARD "INTEGRATION" LEAVING ROMANIANS ISOLATED. MEANWHILE, ON HIS JUNE 20-21 TOUR OF ROMANIA'S MINORITY REGIONS (SEPTTEL), CEAUSESCU HIMSELF HAS NOT REPEATED DIRECT REFERENCES TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN ROMANIAN MINORITY PROBLEMS (OR THREAT OF RETALIATION IMPLICIT IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ROMANIA WOULD NOT USE ROMANIANS ABROAD EITHER) WHICH WERE SO PROMINENT IN LAST WEEK'S BUCHAREST SPEECH (REF B). TOUR IS CLEARLY INTENDED AS TRIUMPHAL DEMONSTRATION OF NATIONAL UNITY AROUND CEAUSESCU AND PARTY, BUT SLAM AT OUTSIDE CONFIDENTIAL

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AGITATORS WAS DELIVERED BY MAGYAR VICE PREMIER JANOS FAZEKAS, AT ODORHEIUL/SECUIESC, RATHER THAN BY PRESIDENT.

7. ON BOTH SIDES, THEREFORE, MOVES OVER PAST WEEKS MAY

BE INTENDED TO CROSS T'S, DOT I'S, AND PUT END TO MOST
RECENT ROUND OF PUBLIC POLEMICS AND POSTURING OVER
TRANSYLVANIA, BESSARABIA ET AL, WITH ALL PARTIES EQUALLY
SATISFIED.
AGGREY

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